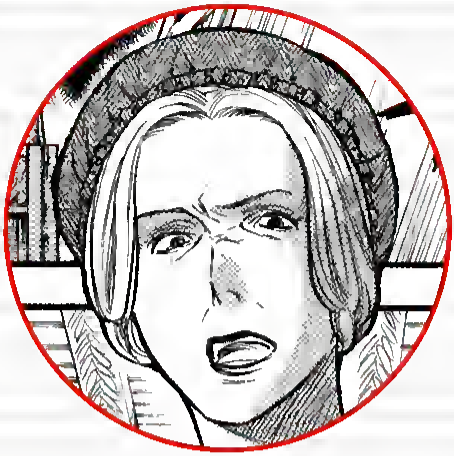
Never giving up on artistic dreams!
Arte
Pure-hearted, super positive and honest to a foult. No matter what people soy, she'll never give up!
16th century Firenze:
Art was considered the damain af men. One plucky girl stands up ta prave that anything a man can do, she can tao!
Her name is... Arte.
Arte
MANGA KEI OKUBO

OTHER CHARACTERS



Arte's mother

Wants Arte to give up drawing and find a husband.

Master Leo

Master craftsman. Owns his own studio. Man of few words.

Lady Veronica

A beautiful lady with many admirers. An old friend of Leo's.

Angelo

A fellow apprentice. Light-hearted and cheerful, he's always willing to help a lady.

PLEASE TAP LEFT TO BEGIN!

A girl with a defiant spirit, **Arte's challenge begins here!**

A **COMIC ZENON** Production

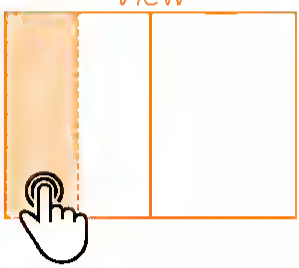
Aree

by KEI OHKUBO

This manga is read in
RIGHT to LEFT
page order

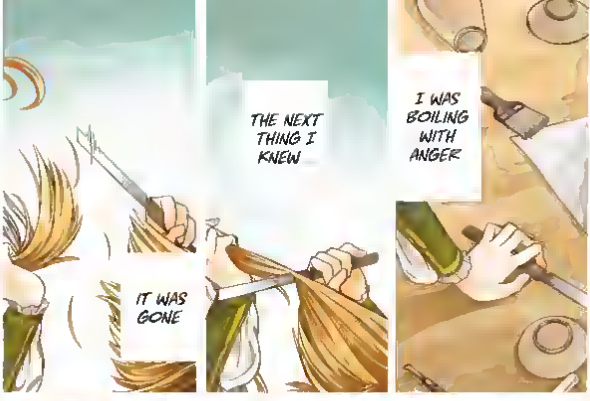
Single Page View

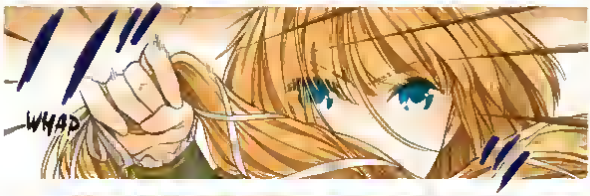
Double Page View



To turn the poge, tap or click
left side of the pages

PLEASE TAP
LEFT
TO BEGIN!


IT WAS GONE
THE NEXT THING I KNEW
I WAS BOILING WITH ANGER


WHAP

Arte
THIS ALL STARTED 6 DAYS AGO
Men looking surprised. Surrounding — a girl?

Arte

Chapter 1
Apprenticeship

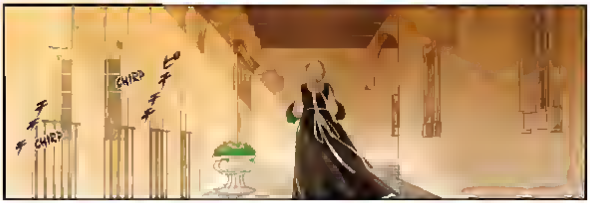
The girl with a Will to Fight!

A talended young artist!

Kei Ohkubo

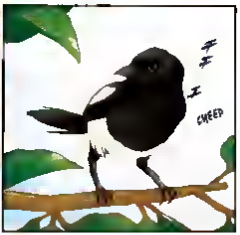
HOUSE OF NOBILITY
THE SPALLETTI RESIDENCE

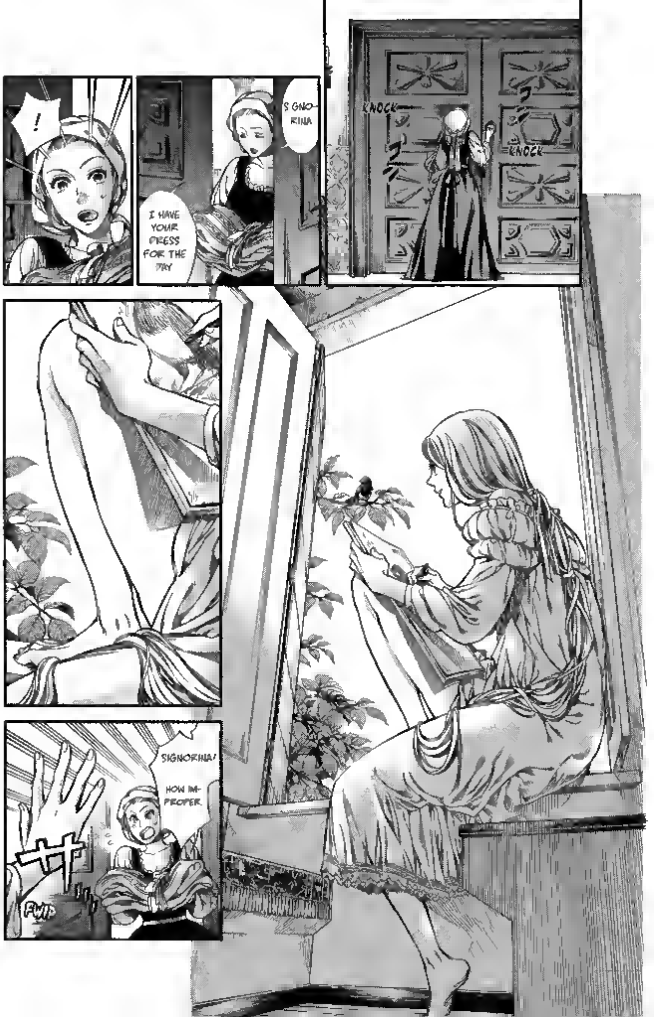
EARLY 16TH CENTURY
FIRENZE ITALY


CHIRP
CHIRP

SCRITCH
SCRITCH

PEEP
PEEP

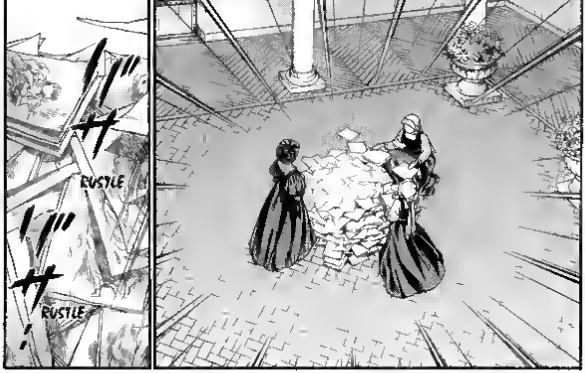

CHEEP


KNOCK
KNOCK
SIGNORINA
I HAVE YOUR DRESS FOR THE TRY
!
SIGNORINA!
HOW IM-PROPER
FWP

HOLD ON, I'M AT A REALLY GOOD PART
!
SHHHH

BORN TO A FLORENTINE NOBLE FAMILY, I, ARTE
HAVE ALWAYS HAD AN OBSESSIVE PASSION FOR DRAWING
DESPITE MOTHER'S DISAPPROVAL, FATHER ALWAYS SUPPORTED ME AND MY ARTISTIC PURSUITS.

LAST MONTH, FATHER PASSED AWAY
FOR A NOBLE FAMILY, WE WERE NEVER VERY WEALTHY
THIS PRESENTED ONE PROBLEM.
THAT BEING
HUH?
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
UH?

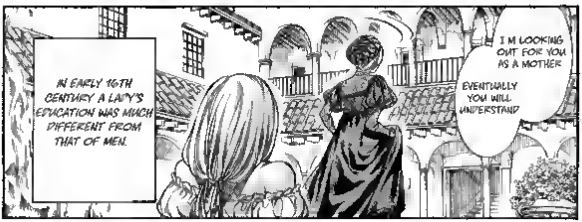

RUSTLE
RUSTLE

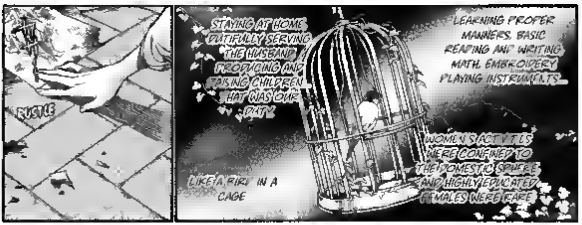
I DREW THOSE!
STOP!
WHAT? I'M GETTING RID OF THESE USELESS THINGS.
MOTHER! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

WE ONLY MEANT FOR YOU TO LEARN DRAWING AS A HOBBY
HOW WILL YOU EVER ENTERTAIN A GENTLEMAN WITH SUCH AN ABSORBED INTEREST
BURN
NOO OOOO OOO!!
FIDE
POSS

IT'S NOT EASY TO FIND A SUITOR FOR YOU
IT IS.
YOUR FATHER PASSED AWAY AND WITH THE MEAGER POWERY WE CAN AFFORD
YOU GUESSED IT
OUR PROBLEM.
IS IT SO IMPORTANT THAT I ATTRACT A GENTLEMAN?
AFTER FATHER'S DEATH.
WE DISCOVERED THAT THE FAMILY HAD VERY LITTLE LEFT TO PASS ON AS MY POWERY
WITHOUT A LARGE POWERY ONE CANNOT TYPICALLY EXPECT TO ATTRACT AN IDEAL MATCH.
A POWERY IS THE ASSETS HANDED BY A WIFE'S FAMILY TO HER HUSBAND AT MARRIAGE
... IS MY MARRIAGE
OR WOULD YOU RATHER BECOME A NUN?
IF YOU WISH TO HAVE A DECENT LIFE THEN YOU MUST FIND YOURSELF A HUSBAND
A DECENT LIFE TO YOU MEANS...
CLENCH

GIVING UP FREEDOM TO PLEASE SOME HUSBAND?
YOU ARE BEING FOOLISH

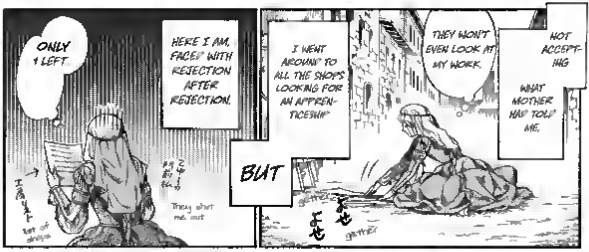

I'M LOOKING OUT FOR YOU AS A MOTHER
EVENTUALLY YOU WILL UNDERSTAND
IN EARLY 16TH CENTURY, A LADY'S EDUCATION WAS MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF MEN.


BUSY BE
STAYING AT HOME, DUTIFULLY SERVING THE HUSBAND, PRODUCING AND RAISING CHILDREN THAT WAS DAILY
LEARNING PROPER MANNERS, BASIC READING AND WRITING, MATH, EMBROIDERY, PLAYING INSTRUMENTS
WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES WERE CONFINED TO THE DOMESTIC SPHERE, AND HIGHLY EDUCATED FEMALES WERE RARE
LIKE A BIRD IN A CAGE

THE RENAISSANCE PERIOD
EARLY 16TH CENTURY

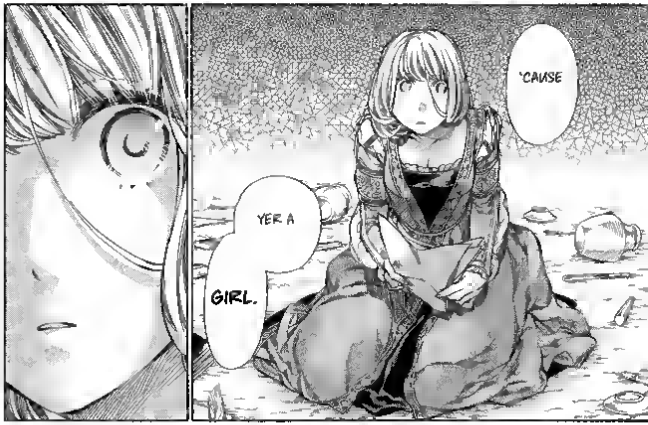
PRODUCING WORK UPON WORK OF ART AT THE HANDS OF THEIR CRAFTSMEN.
ARTISTS' WORKSHOPS OF VARIOUS SCALES HUSTLED IN THE CITY
THE ONLY WAY TO BECOME A CRAFTSMAN WAS TO JOIN A MASTER'S WORKSHOP AND LEARN THE TRADE BY ASSISTING THE WORK
THE PRODUCTION OF ART WAS USUALLY PUSHED IN LABOR
AND MANY APPRENTICES LIVED AND WORKED IN THE SHOP
YOU'RE IN THE WAY!
GET OUT AND GO HOME!
SLAM
WASTE OF MY TIME!
YOU'RE NOT WELCOME IN MY SHOP!
WHAT DO YOU TAKE MY SHOP FOR?
EH?!
WANNA BE AN APPRENTICE? YOU'RE A GIRL!

17 REJECTIONS IN A ROW.
SLUMP
SEEKING AN APPRENTICESHIP.


ONLY 1 LEFT.
HERE I AM, FACED WITH REJECTION AFTER REJECTION.
They what me. must
I WENT AROUND TO ALL THE SHOPS LOOKING FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP.
BUT
THEY WON'T EVEN LOOK AT MY WORK.
NOT ACCEPTING
WHAT MOTHER HAS TOLD ME.

GRIP
ONLY I CAN PAVE MY OWN PATH!
STILL
1 LEFT!

I ALREADY TOLD YOU!!
GA-SHANG
THE ANSWER IS NO!
WHY?
WHY NOT ME?!
THERE'S NO POINT!
WAIT.
WILL YOU AT LEAST TAKE A LOOK--!!
WHAT'S THE RACKET?
HUH?
CHATTER



BECAUSE I'M A GIRL?

H--
HEY~
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...
SST
HMMM
GLINT
CALM--
AHHHH!
S--STOP!
EEP!
SHUDDER

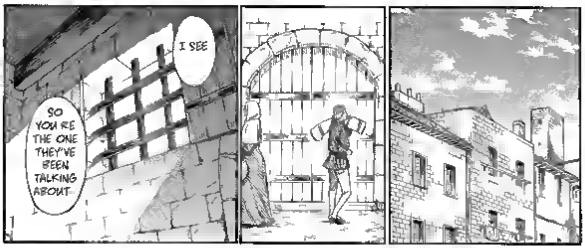
SLASH
LIFT

IF BEING A GIRL IS SUCH A PROBLEM--
FINE

...QUIT BEING A GIRL!
I...
BAM
WHAT ARE YOU--
WAH--HEY!
WHOA
WHAT? NOT GOOD ENOUGH? THEN I'LL CUT MY BREASTS OFF!
HMM
JAW DROP
H--
HEY!
PUSH
AH-
LEO?!
OH--OH YEAH!
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE DOING?!
STOP IT!
GRAB

HUH?
YOU OWN A SHOP?
YOU DON'T HAVE AN APPRENTICE AT YOUR PLACE!
YOU TAKE HER!
WHA--

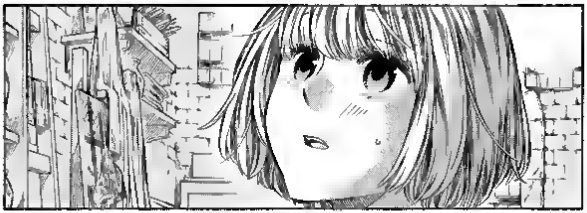
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
UH?
WHAT?

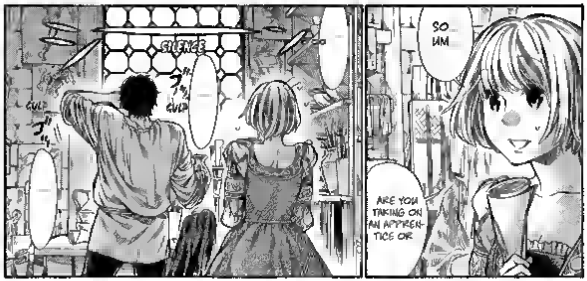

I SEE
SO YOU'RE THE ONE THEY'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT

HI NEWBIE
I KNOW I GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY BUT...
I'M STUCK WITH A WEIRDO
SIGH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
MAN... I GOT MYSELF IN TROUBLE
SCRATCH

SPLOSH
SPLOSH
CLATTER
FLOP

SUCH A SMALL SHOP
AND SO MUCH PACKED IN EVERY CORNER.
HUH?
THE TOOLS ARE METICULOUSLY CARED FOR.
IMPRESSIVE




SILENCE
GULP
GULP
SO UM...
ARE YOU TAKING ON AN APPRENTICE OR

UM I
UH
FLINCH
BANG
F'HEW
GLARE
THUD

SO?

HE IS SO
OH HM
WELL
MORE THAN ALL THE OTHER MASTERS...
ゴクッ
gulp

SCARY!
I...
I...
I DO!
I DO HAVE SOME-THING!
!
GO HOME
WHAT IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY
EEK
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
THIS.
IS MY LAST HOPE
I DON'T BE INTIMIDATED ARTE.
SO
TO BECOME A CRAFTSMAN.
I WANT TO TRAIN AS AN APPRENTICE

WHAP
TAKE A LOOK AT MY DRAWINGS!
PLEASE!

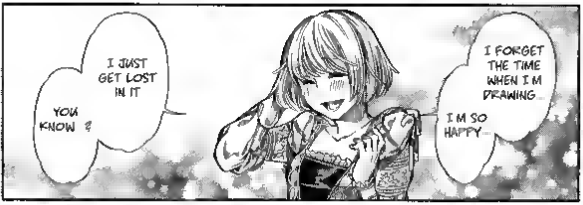
FLIP
WHA--
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE I'M DOING?
YOU'LL LOOK AT THEM?!
I
IF YOU WANT ME TO LOOK, BE QUIET
SHUT UP.
I--
THANK YOU!
TH--

I DON'T LIKE NOISE
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
WHY--
FLINCH
WHISK

WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE A PAINTER?
GASP!
OH!
NOTHING!
?
WHAT'S WRONG?
I WANT TO BE A PAINTER--
RIGHT
UHM.
I WANT TO BE A PAINTER?
YOU WERE ASKING WHY

RUSH

BECAUSE I LIKE TO DRAW...
I SUPPOSE...

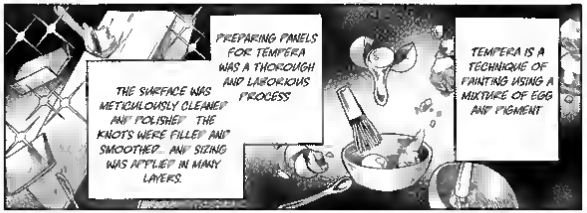

I FORGET THE TIME WHEN I'M DRAWING...
I'M SO HAPPY...
I JUST GET LOST IN IT
YOU KNOW?

HUH?
UM...?

GULP
I SEE
OKAY
DID I... SAY SOMETHING WRONG?
UH
LEO?
IS HE MAD?

I'LL TAKE YOU ON AS MY APPRENTICE
SURE
BUT UNDER ONE CONDITION
R--
REALLY?!
BAM

RIGHT
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO PREPARE A PANEL FOR TEMPERA PAINTING?
OH! YES
I DID IT ONCE WITH MY TUTOR.
SO MANY PANELS!
ARE YOU GOING TO PAINT ON THEM?


PREPARING PANELS FOR TEMPERA WAS A THOROUGH AND LABORIOUS PROCESS.
THE SURFACE WAS METICULOUSLY CLEANED AND POLISHED. THE KNOTS WERE FILLED AND SMOOTHED. AND SIZING WAS APPLIED IN MANY LAYERS.
TEMPERA IS A TECHNIQUE OF PAINTING USING A MIXTURE OF EGG AND PIGMENT

IF I FINISH THESE PANELS.
IF YOU CAN DO THAT THEN YOU CAN BE MY APPREN-TICE
I WANT YOU TO SAND AND PRIME EVERY PANEL BY TOMOR-ROW

HEY!
I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW AROUND THIS TIME TO CHECK UP ON YOUR WORK
WELL THEN
I'LL BE AN APPRENTICE!
FOR GIVING ME A CHANCE!
THANK YOU...
K
AL-RIGHT
SQUEEZE
GOOD LUCK...

LET'S DO THIS!!
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
YER A RUTHLESS MAN
SERIOUSLY
I HEARD YOU LEFT THAT GIRL TO A SISYPHEAN TASK.
EY!
LOOK WHO'S HERE!

EVEN I COULDN'T PREPARE 20 PANELS IN ONE NIGHT
HA, EVEN YOU?
BUT YEAH THAT'S A REAL NASTY MOVE
Let the devil!
WHY'D YOU DO THAT ANYWAY?
SHE MUST'VE CROSSED YOU BAD
NAH
JUST

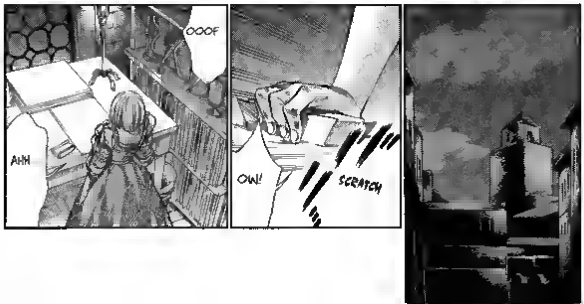
A ROTTEN PRINCESS WHO'S NEVER HAD TO WORK FOR ANYTHING IN LIFE--
THINKS BEING A CRAFTSMAN IS SOME SORT OF A HOBBY GETS ON MY NERVES

PLEASE
ANYTHING WOULD HELP!
TAKE IT EASY MAN
AHH
SO HARDCORE LEO, AS ALWAYS!
すた
SCURS
SHIVER

THANK YOU.
THANK YOU.
GOD BLESS YOU
TAKE THIS AND GO HOME!
SPLASH
EGH!
FINE!
BEGGARS.
WE DON'T TAKE ON BEGGARS.
DOESN'T MATTER HOW GOOD YOU ARE.
THERE'S NO PLACE FOR YOU HERE. GO LOOK ELSEWHERE!
SHOVE
YOU DIRTY... BRAT!
'CAUSE
WHA...
WHY DO YOU WANT TO BECOME AN APPRENTICE?
HM.
NOT BAD.
I WANNA LIVE ON MY OWN
DIGNIFIED AND INDEPENDENT
AN' NOT HAVE TO BEG FOR A DIRTY PIECE OF BREAD

BECAUSE I LIKE TO DRAW...
...I SUPPOSE

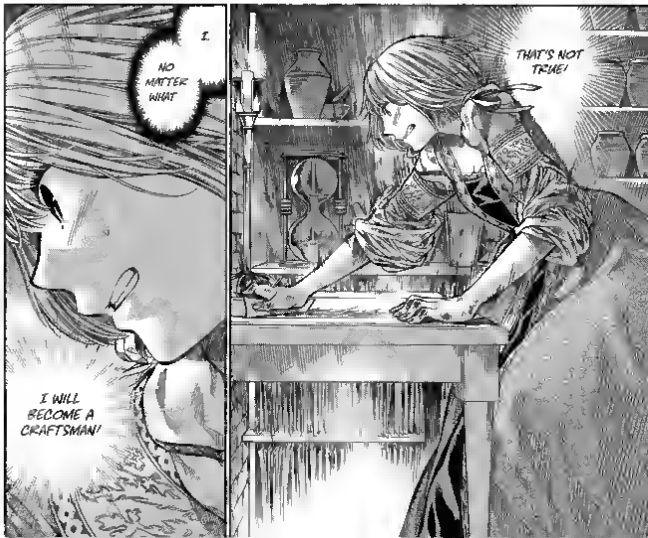
HMPH

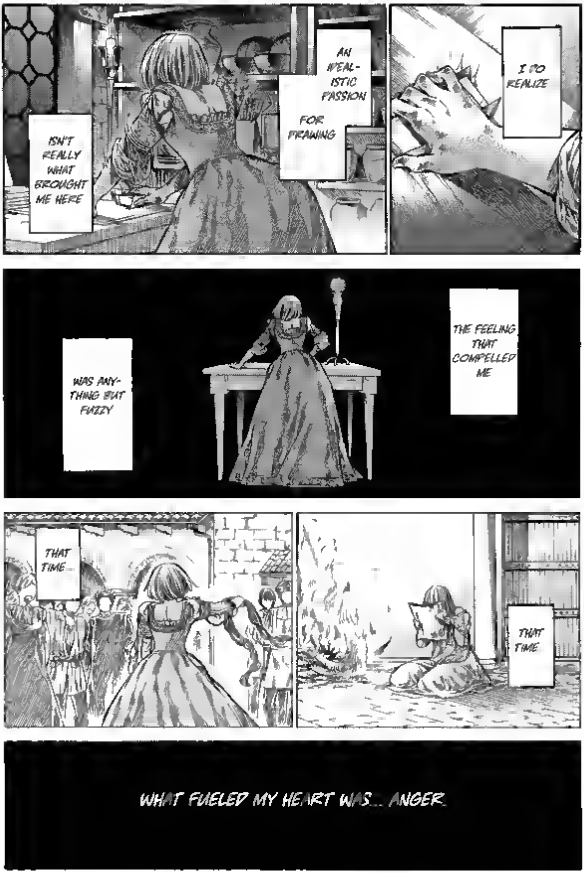

OOOF
AHH
OW!
SCRATCH

SCRAPED MY HAND
HOW FAR AM I NOW?
1 2 3 4
THIS IS PRETTY TOUGH
GOTTA KEEP WORKING HARD
SLIP
AH!
MY HANDS
ARE SHAKING

I LOVE DRAWING!
MY HANDS CAN TAKE THE PAIN
I'M FINE! THIS IS NOTHING
I CAN DO THIS!
UGH!
I
SEE?
TWITCH
I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO IT
SCRUB
SCRUB
I LOVE DRAWING!
I LOVE DRAWING!
YOU NEVER STOOD A CHANCE TO BE A CRAFTSMAN
KNOW YOUR PLACE, PRINCESS
A WOMAN CANNOT BE HAPPY WITHOUT MARRYING A MAN
WHAT DID MOTHER TELL YOU?

WOOSH


I.
NO MATTER WHAT
I WILL BECOME A CRAFTSMAN!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!


ISN'T REALLY WHAT BROUGHT ME HERE
AN IDEALISTIC PASSION FOR READING
I DO REALIZE
WAS ANYTHING BUT FUZZY
THE FEELING THAT COMPELLED ME
THAT TIME...
THAT TIME
WHAT FUELED MY HEART WAS... ANGER.

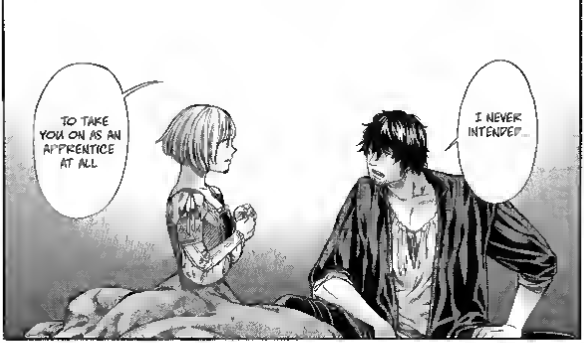
CHATTER
I'M LATE TO SEE HER.
CHATTER
MY HEAD IS THROBBING.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
WELL...
SHE'S PROBABLY GIVEN UP AND GONE HOME.
I REALLY DON'T FEEL LIKE COMING HOME TO THAT CHICK.
DANG IT...
THAT WAS TOO MUCH TO DRINK LAST NIGHT
!
CLEEK

AH
LEO!!
WAAAH!
JUMP

SPLASH

THAT'S FINE BUT...
I AM...
SORRY!
I FELL ASLEEP!

I WORKED VERY HARD! WHAT DO YOU THINK?
YES!
!
YOU ACTUALLY FINISHED EVERYTHING
?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HUH?
?
I...
WASN'T EXPECTING YOU TO FINISH


I NEVER INTENDED...
TO TAKE YOU ON AS AN APPRENTICE AT ALL

OKAY

I BETTER FIND ANOTHER WAY TO BECOME A CRAFTSMAN THEN.
WHAT?
HEY
THAT'S AN AWFULLY PEPPY RESPONSE
AREN'T YOU UPSET WITH ME?
UPSET?

...
WELL
I'M VERY MUCH IN SHOCK RIGHT
YOU KNOW...
NO ONE...
!

NO ONE EVEN LISTENED TO ME BECAUSE I'M A GIRL
BUT
YOU LOOKED AT MY DRAWINGS
AND LISTENED TO MY STORY
THAT ALONE

SO..
I CAN'T BE MAD AT YOU
MEANT
A LOT TO ME..

GUILTY?
I'M ALSO FEELING A BIT GUILTY
YEAH
I LIED TO YOU
I
IT'S NOT UNTRUE BUT...
I WAS BEING A LITTLE ARTY
RIGHT
WHEN YOU ASKED ME WHY I WANTED TO BECOME A CRAFTSMAN
I SAID BECAUSE I LIKE TO DRAW.
WAS NOT THAT
WHAT KEPT ME GOING EVERY TIME I THOUGHT ABOUT GIVING UP
NOT THE GOAL BUT THE MEANS
I
FOR ME, BECOMING A CRAFTSMAN IS.

I FEEL THIS INTENSE ANGER
THAT DRIVES ME
I UNDERSTAND HOW HARD IT IS.
FOR A WOMAN TO LIVE ON HER OWN
BUT
EVEN IF I WERE TO STARVE TO DEATH...
BY TRAINING IN A SHOP
I WANT TO EQUIP MYSELF TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY ALL ON MY OWN
I WANNA LIVE ON MY OWN!
DIGNIFIED AND INDEPENDENT...
AND NOT HAVE TO BEG FOR A DIRTY PIECE OF BREAD

WHAT THE...
NO
NOTHING
GASP
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
UM...?
LEO?
WHEN WE COME FROM SUCH DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS?
?
WHY DO I SEE MYSELF IN HER.
FINE
?
?
?
SIGH
ARG
SCRATCH
I DID PROMISE AFTER ALL.

I MEAN IT THIS TIME
I'LL TAKE YOU ON AS MY APPRENTICE
AS PROMISED
R--
BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND
SHUT UP
YOU AREN'T KIDDING?!
ME AT THE WORKSHOP?!
REALLY?!

SHE'S GONNA CR--
OH
じわ...
mmh
REA
LLY?
I WON'T CRY!
むん!
mmph!
Y
I KNOW MEN DON'T CRY AT TIMES LIKE THIS
むむむむ
mmmmm
mmm

She begins her training in the next episode!

THANK YOU
FOR READING
PLEASE VOTE TOO!